

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended)

The combination of ~~claim 4~~ claim 33 wherein said locking mechanism is in a locked position when said forward end of said mounting frame and said blade has been lowered to a predetermined height.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original)

The combination of claim 5 wherein said locking mechanism includes a pivotal blade position lever, movable between locked and unlocked positions, a latching spring connected to said lever which yieldably urges said lever towards its said locked position, and an unlatching spring connected to said lever which yieldably urges said lever towards its said unlocked position.

10. (Original)

The combination of claim 9 wherein said latching spring has a spring strength greater than said unlatching spring.

11. (Original)

The combination of claim 9 wherein said latching spring is elongated and has first and second ends, said first end of said latching spring being connected to the forward end of the vehicle, said second end of said latching spring being connected to said lever, said latching spring overcoming said unlatching spring when said blade is at a predetermined height and lower, with respect to the forward end of the vehicle to urge said lever towards its said locked position, said unlatching spring overcoming said latching spring when said blade is at a predetermined height and above, with respect to the forward end of the vehicle to move said lever to its said unlocked position so that said motor may pivotally move said blade to one of its selected angular positions.

12. (Original)

The combination of claim 11 wherein said first end of said latching spring is selectively vertically adjustably connected to the forward end of the vehicle.

13. (Original)

The combination of claim 11 wherein an adjustable strap connects said first end of said support plate to the vehicle.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

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18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Cancelled)

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21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

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23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended)

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The combination of ~~claim 24~~ claim 34 wherein said latching spring has a spring strength greater than said unlatching spring.

26. (Currently Amended)

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The combination of ~~claim 24~~ claim 34 wherein said latching spring is elongated and has first and second ends, said first end of said latching spring being connected to the forward end of the vehicle, said second end of said latching spring being connected to said blade position lever, said latching spring overcoming said unlatching spring when said blade is at a predetermined height, and lower, with respect to the forward end of the vehicle to urge said blade position lever towards its said locked position, said unlatching spring overcoming said latching spring when said blade is at a predetermined height, and above, with respect to the forward end of the vehicle to move said blade position lever to its said unlocked position so that said motor may pivotally move said blade to one of its selected angular positions.

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27. (Original)

The combination of claim 26 wherein said first end of said latching spring is selectively vertically adjustably connected to the forward end of the vehicle.

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28. (Original)

The combination of claim 26 wherein an adjustable strap connects said first end of said support plate to the vehicle.

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29. (Original)

The combination of claim 15 wherein said motor is selectively adjustably connected to said mounting frame.

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30. (Original)

The combination of claim 15 wherein said motor is selectively adjustably connected to said hinge plate.

31. (Original)

The combination of claim 15 wherein said vehicle is an all-terrain vehicle.

32. (Original)

The combination of claim 15 wherein said vehicle is a single passenger vehicle.

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33. (New)

A blade attachment for an off-road vehicle having a forward end, a rearward end, a right side, a left side, and an underside, comprising in combination:
a mounting frame having rearward and forward ends;

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1 said rearward end of said mounting frame being pivotally connected, about a
horizontal axis, to said vehicle and extending forwardly therefrom so that its
said forward end is positioned forwardly of said forward end of said vehicle;
said forward end of said mounting frame being selectively movable between raised
5 and lowered positions;
a blade having a right end and a left end, selectively pivotally secured about a
vertical axis to said forward end of said mounting frame;
an electrically driven motor operatively mounted on said mounting frame;
10 said electrically driven motor being operatively connected to said blade so as to
selectively pivotally move said blade between selected angular positions with
respect to said mounting frame and the vehicle;
said blade being selectively locked in said selected angular positions by a locking
mechanism;
15 said locking mechanism being in an unlocked position when said forward end of said
mounting frame and said blade have been raised to a predetermined height
with respect to the vehicle.

34. (New)

20 A blade attachment for an off-road vehicle having a forward end, a rearward
end, a right side, a left side, and an underside, comprising in combination:
a mounting frame having rearward and forward ends;

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1 said rearward end of said mounting frame being pivotally connected, about a
horizontal axis, to said vehicle and extending forwardly therefrom so that its
said forward end is positioned forwardly of said forward end of said vehicle;
said forward end of said mounting frame being selectively movable between raised
5 and lowered positions;
a first plate means secured to said forward end of said mounting frame;
a hinge plate selectively movably positioned on said first plate about a vertical axis
and having a forward end and a rearward end;
10 said hinge plate having a blade position lever opening formed therein;
said hinge plate having a plurality of spaced-apart notches formed in its said
rearward end;
a blade secured to said hinge plate;
a blade position lever operatively pivotally movably mounted on said hinge plate
15 which extends downwardly therefrom through one of said notches and through
said blade position lever opening;
said blade position lever being selectively movable between locked and unlocked
positions;
20 said blade position lever normally being in its said locked position;
an electrically driven motor operatively mounted on said mounting frame;
said motor being operatively connected to said hinge plate for moving said hinge
plate and said blade to various angular positions with respect to said mounting

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1 frame and the vehicle when said blade position lever is in its said unlocked
position;
said blade position lever being in an unlocked position when said forward end of said
mounting frame and said blade are positioned at a first predetermined height
5 with respect to the vehicle;
said locking mechanism being in a locked position when said forward end of said
mounting frame and said blade are positioned below said first predetermined
height;
10 a latching spring connected to said blade position lever which yieldably urges said
blade position lever towards its said locking pin;
and an unlatching spring connected to said blade position lever which yieldably urges
said blade position lever towards its said unlocked position.

35. (New)

15 A blade attachment for an off-road vehicle having a forward end, a rearward
end, a right side, a left side, and an underside, comprising in combination:
a mounting frame having rearward and forward ends;
said rearward end of said mounting frame being pivotally connected, about a
20 horizontal axis, to said vehicle and extending forwardly therefrom so that its
said forward end is positioned forwardly of said forward end of said vehicle;
said forward end of said mounting frame being selectively movable between raised
and lowered positions;
25 a first plate means secured to said forward end of said mounting frame;

1 a hinge plate selectively movably positioned on said first plate about a vertical axis
and having a forward end and a rearward end;
said hinge plate having a blade position lever opening formed therein;
said hinge plate having a plurality of spaced-apart notches formed in its said
5 rearward end;
a blade secured to said hinge plate;
a blade position lever operatively pivotally movably mounted on said hinge plate
which extends downwardly therefrom through one of said notches and through
10 said blade position lever opening;
said blade position lever being selectively movable between locked and unlocked
positions;
said blade position lever normally being in its said locked position;
an electrically driven motor operatively mounted on said mounting frame;
15 said motor being operatively connected to said hinge plate for moving said hinge
plate and said blade to various angular positions with respect to said mounting
frame and the vehicle when said blade position lever is in its said unlocked
position;
20 said blade position lever being in an unlocked position when said forward end of said
mounting frame and said blade are positioned at a first predetermined height
with respect to the vehicle.

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36. (New)

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The combination of claim 35 wherein said locking mechanism is in a locked position when said forward end of said mounting frame and said blade are positioned below said first predetermined height.

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